



# Department of Pesticide Regulation



Mary-Ann Warmerdam  
Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

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WHS 05-03

TO: COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: WORKER AND PESTICIDE HANDLER OUTREACH MATERIALS

The Worker Health and Safety (WHS) Branch has identified outreach materials on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) website that you and qualified trainers may find useful to supplement WHS' Pesticide Safety Information Series in meeting training requirements for pesticide handlers and fieldworkers. The resources are described below. Of particular note is the publication, "Steps to Protect Yourself from Pesticides," which is available in six languages. All materials can be ordered free of charge from the U.S. EPA's National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center by phone, mail, or fax with the contact information provided online. Where available, hypertext links permit viewing and downloading the materials in pdf. format. We recommend you share this information with trainers and employers in your county.

## Resources Available from the National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center

Available at both the Worker Protection Standard (<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/awor.html>) and Pesticides (<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/apes.html>) web-pages.

- Protect Yourself from Pesticides: Guide for Agricultural Workers (Document No. 22018)  
Each page of this 47-page booklet features both English and Spanish translations, along with pictures. It is comprehensive in addressing situations that present pesticide hazards, how to avoid or protect yourself from exposure, what to do if someone is sick due to pesticides, as well as recommending good hygiene and sanitation habits while working and at home. Its clear and simple language, can be understood by workers with grade-school level reading skills.
- Steps to Protect Yourself from Pesticides (Document Nos. 50119 – 50123)  
The English/Spanish version, document number 51019, is titled "Protect Yourself from Pesticides/Pretejase de los Pesticidas". These leaflets present condensed versions of the 47-page booklet described in the preceding bullet (document no. 22018). Five 15-page booklets are available. Each presents information in both English and a foreign language; either Spanish, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Cambodian, or Laotian. The booklets feature one sentence per page, with an accompanying pictorial on the facing page. The text explains where workers may be exposed to pesticides and lists six steps to prevent over-exposure, including reading and obeying signs and warnings, adopting good hygiene and sanitation habits, protecting exposed areas with clothing, and how to decontaminate if over-exposed. Its clear and simple language can be understood by workers with grade-school level reading skills.
- Choosing Chemical Resistant Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (Document No. 50057)  
This three-page booklet is available only in English. The leaflet explains the principles that



determine chemical resistance, lists physical changes to watch for that indicate the material is not chemical resistant, and provides guidance for choosing appropriate chemical resistant PPE. This leaflet would be appropriate for pesticide handlers with a high school education.

- Personal Protective Equipment Guide: Coveralls, Gloves and Other Skin Protection (Document No. 50056)

This 12-page booklet presents primarily written material with a few pictures, and is appropriate for handlers and handler supervisors who can read English at the eighth grade level. The sections on when PPE is needed and using PPE correctly are comprehensive in listing situations other than handling activities where workers should protect themselves with PPE and in warning against "cheating" on PPE, such as wiping contaminated gloves on their clothing. It also highlights strategies to avoid contaminating and/or breaching the protection value of PPE. There is a helpful two-column presentation of the label statement vs. what constitutes acceptable PPE.

- Personal Protective Equipment Guide: Protective Eyewear (Document No. 22023)

Page two of this four-page document is the most pertinent and could be used as a one-page handout. It provides guidance on selecting protective eyewear for specific use scenarios. It is suitable for workers who can read English at an eighth grade level.

- Protection for Pesticide Handlers: Protect Yourself, Brush Up on Covering Up (Document No. 50055)

This five-page brochure contains condensed yet comprehensive guidance on selecting appropriate coveralls, protective eyewear and respirators, cleaning and inspecting PPE, using clothing layers to increase protection, and recognizing and controlling heat stress. While all the information is suitable for pesticide handlers, the information on heat stress is also appropriate for fieldworkers. The material is suitable for workers who can read at a sixth grade level.

If you have any questions, please contact the WHS Branch at (916) 445-4222.

Sincerely,

*(original signed by C. Andrews)*

Charles M. Andrews, Chief  
Worker Health and Safety Branch  
(916) 445-4222

cc: Jim Shattuck, Agricultural Commissioner Liaison, DPR  
Katy Wilcoxon, U.S. EPA Region 9